

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 EB-07 COME-00 FEA-01 INT-05 AID-05 /081 W

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R 241650Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5364

INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GUATEMALA 6939

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OAS, GT

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER ADOPTS NATIONALISTIC TONE IN PRESS
INTERVIEW

REF: GUATEMALA 6897

1. DECEMBER 20 EDITION OF OFFICIAL GOVERNEMENT NEWSPAPER,
DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA, REPRINTED INTERVIEW WITH FOREIGN
MINISTER ADOLFO MOLINA ORANTES BY VISITING JOURNALIST FROM
MEXICO'S EXCELSIOR. MEXICAN REPORTER QUOTED MOLINA AS
STATING ON DECEMBER 18 THAT IN RECENT MEETING IN VENEZUELA
CENTRAL AMERICAN PRESIDENTS BEGAN "A BATTLE AGAINST THE
GREAT POWERS, WHICH HAVE DOMINATED US BECAUSE NEOCOLONIALISM
STILL PERSISTS."

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS
AND DUTIES, MOLINA WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT ALTHOUGH THE
OPPOSITION OF SOME INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES TO THE
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CHARTER WAS "UNDERSTANDABLE," THE DOCUMENT "WILL HAVE

TO FUNCTION AND BE APPLIES, BECAUSE THAT IS THE EFFECT OF THE DECISIONS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS." MOLINA ADDED THAT ALL GOVERNMENTS HAVE THE RIGHT TO NATIONALIZE BUSINESS ENTERPRISES, COMPENSATING THE EXPROPRIATED OWNERS IN A "REASONABLE MANNER." HE OBSERVED THAT GUATEMALA WOULD SEEK TO MAINTAIN "ABSOLUTE CONTROL" OVER ANY PETROLEUM WHICH MAY EXIST HERE.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTED THAT OAS WAS STILL USEFUL IN SPITE OF "CRITICISMS WHICH ARE MADE OF UNITED STATES." HE EMPHASIZED NEED FOR DIALOGUE WITH U.S., "WHICH CAN ONLY OCCUR IN OAS." MOLINA SUGGESTED THAT CANADA SHOULD BE GRANTED OAS MEMBERSHIP. HE ALSO PROPOSED CREATION OF A NEW LATIN AMERICAN ORGANIZATION TO STUDY POPULATION GROWTH.

4. ASKED HIS REACTION TO RECENT ALLEGED STATEMENTS BY CIA DIRECTOR COLBY ASSERTING US COULD INTERVENE ANYWHERE, MOLINA REPLIED, "WE ARE CONSCIOUS OF WHAT ESPIONAGE IS, AND CANNOT ACCEPT THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF THAT ATTITUDE."

5. COMMENT: SEVERAL OF MOLINA'S REMARKS SEEM TO REFLECT THE NATIONALISTIC TONE ADOPTED BY PRESIDENT LAUGERUD IN HIS SPEECH ON DECEMBER 17(REFTEL) AND LATER, EVEN MORE EMPHATICALLY, BY ECONOMIC MINISTER PALOMO(SEE GUATEMALA 6934). ALL THREE STATEMENTS TOOK SWIPES AT "THE GREAT POWERS." THESE REMARKS MAY BE ONLY THE PRODUCT OF OVERSTIMULATION AND CERTAIN EUPHORIA RESULTING FROM THE UNACCUSTOMED SENSE OF UNITY AND ACCOMPLISHMENT AT THE VENEZUELA SUMMIT (WHICH WAS LAUGERUD'S FIRST PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WITH INTERNATIONAL POLITICS). THEY COULD ALSO REPRESENT A PURELY TACTICAL SHIFT IN GOG RHETORIC TO BRING IT MORE IN LINE WITH OTHER LDCS. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, THAT WE ARE SEEING THE BEGINNING OF A FUNDAMENTAL SHIFT IN ATTITUDE OF THE GUATEMALAN LEADERSHIP TOWARD A MORE NATIONALISTIC POSITION, DESIGNED TO DEFEND GUATEMALA AGAINST WHAT LAUGERUD IN HIS CHRISTMAS EVE MESSAGE CALLED "THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VIOLENCE OF AN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY THAT DOESN'T CARE WHAT COUNTRY IT STRIKES."
ANDREWS

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